

Seventh, the bill would maintain State accountability under TANF by extending the current maintenance-of-effort requirement (plus an inflation increase), and by requiring States to generally use Federal funds to supplement, rather than replace, State funding in various low-income programs.

Eight and finally, the measure would call for increased information about State TANF programs and about the status of welfare leavers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can pursue these eight goals while maintaining the State general discretion to tailor their own TANF policies. Furthermore, I am hopeful these suggestions can attract bipartisan support on the basis that promoting work and reducing poverty are goals that hopefully draw near universal approval. I look forward to working with the Administration and with all of my colleagues on a TANF reauthorization bill designed to reward work, reduce poverty, and increase self-sufficiency.

**SUPPORTING THE NEXT STEP IN
REFORMING WELFARE ACT**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "Next Step in Reforming Welfare Act" for which I am an original cosponsor.

In 1996, I vehemently opposed the "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act," which changed our nation's welfare system, because it removed an important safety net for the poor and the most vulnerable in our society. I still hold these views today.

However, I support the "Next Step in Reforming Welfare Act" because—unlike the 1996 law—this new legislation improves our national safety net and actually helps the poor and most vulnerable in our society. This bill increases funding for TANF, redirects the goal of the program to that of poverty reduction, rewards work, provides new funding for work support programs, like child care, and encourages states to better assist hard-to-serve TANF recipients.

The "Next Step in Reforming Welfare Act" increases the TANF block grant by inflation, and more than doubles child care funding so that more families are able to go to work.

This legislation appropriately redirects the goal of the TANF program to reducing poverty. This replaces the draconian idea that the purpose of welfare is to kick TANF recipients off the rolls as fast as possible. The bill accomplishes this by making child poverty reduction an explicit goal of TANF and by providing \$150 million each year in incentive grants to states who reduce child poverty.

Another important focus of this legislation is its commitment to increasing quality childcare to current and former TANF recipients. The bill triples the portion of the Child Care Development Block Grant available for this purpose. Additionally, the bill requires that all TANF funding used for childcare only be used in facilities that meet state health and safety standards. It also increases the age for which childcare must be available for children from 6 to 13 years old.

This bill directs resources to TANF recipients who suffer from disabilities, substance

abuse, domestic violence, and lack of proficiency in English. It requires states to assess and screen recipients to determine if they need rehabilitative or educational services to go to work. It also provides families in these situations a chance to get on their feet by allowing rehabilitative services to count as a work activity for six months.

These changes in TANF are a first step toward improving our welfare system so that it truly helps poor working families and gives them not just a safety net, but also springboard out of poverty. I hope that my colleagues in the House will work with me to make TANF a program we can all be proud of.

**SALUTING FIRST LIEUTENANT
JOHN P. PARKER**

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to First Lieutenant John P. Parker upon his retirement as Commander of the Bay City Post of the Michigan State Police. John's exemplary work ethic and can-do attitude have served as standards of optimism, hard work and determination for his fellow officers, friends, neighbors and all who have come into contact with him during his 27-year career with the Michigan State Police and his more than eight years in charge of the Bay City post.

As a law enforcement officer, devoted father and contributor to our community, John has always impressed others with his lead-by-example approach to any venture he has undertaken. A Lansing native, John began his law enforcement career in 1974 as a radio dispatcher in the Jackson post. After graduating from the police academy in 1977, John served briefly with the Bad Axe post as a trooper before being assigned to the Detroit Freeway post. He later worked in Lansing and Brighton. In 1992, John earned a promotion to First Lieutenant and took command of the Sandusky Post, where he served for a year until his transfer to Bay City.

When John took command of the Bay City post, he had his work cut out for him to restore morale and train a professional core of new troopers to bring the post up to full strength. John modestly credits the sworn officers and civilian staff who have worked for him with rebuilding the post, but he deserves praise for leading the effort. Today, John and those under his command can point proudly to having transformed the Bay City post into one of the more widely respected posts in the state. John's strong sense of duty and superior managerial skills clearly sparked the engine that has driven the Bay City Post to be ranked among the best in the state.

Never one to sit on the sidelines, John also found time to devote to civic, religious and fraternal organizations to serve our community and his fellow citizens. His participation in these organizations, which include the Board of Directors of the Bay County Crime Stoppers, the Tri-County Adjudication Program Board of Directors and Knights of Columbus Council 4232, have made a real difference and he should be commended for his involvement. John's wife, Kathy, and his four sons, John, Scott, Chris and Michael, also deserve high

praise for their unselfish support of John in his career goals and his volunteer work.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to First Lieutenant John P. Parker for his distinguished service and in wishing him success in all future endeavors. John will no longer carry a badge, but I am confident that the honor and integrity he displayed during his tenure with the Michigan State Police will continue to serve as evidence that he exemplifies the very best values of the men and women in law enforcement.

**TRIBUTE TO COL. EDWARD RICE,
JR.**

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Col. Edward Rice, Jr. on his promotion to Brigadier General.

Col. Rice commands the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base in my home state of South Dakota, with 27 B-1 bombers and more than 3,500 military and civilian members.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1978, the Colonel is a command pilot with more than 3,600 flying hours in aircraft such as the B-1B, B-52 and B-2. Throughout this distinguished career, Col. Rice has held numerous key operational and staff positions.

Most recently, Col. Rice returned from commanding B-1 and B-52 operations during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The B-1 bomber has been involved in every aspect of the most precise, intense bombing campaign in history, flattening terrorist targets and taking out Taliban strongholds. Col. Rice's bombers were the key to winning in Afghanistan.

Upon his return, Col. Rice stated, "All of us who wear the uniform understand we may be sent into combat. We all know that when duty calls, we'll stand and do what we've been trained to do." That spirit is what makes the U.S. military the best in the world and Col. Rice one of its finest examples.

Yesterday when I spoke with Col. Rice, I was reminded again of what a quality individual he is and what a tremendous asset he is to our country. I am proud of the important role he played in directing missions in the skies above Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, for all the sophistication of these bombers, we know it is people like Col. Rice who truly help get the job done. I'm proud of how well he represents South Dakota.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Col. Rice for his performance in Operation Enduring Freedom, thank him for his service and congratulate him on his promotion to Brigadier General.

**INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY, JANUARY
26, 2002**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most important dates